

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Canceled)

- 1 2. (Currently Amended) A program processing system for performing a
2 program process using an electronic program guide, comprising:
3 a communication network;
4 a program processing apparatus for executing a program process,
5 said apparatus having
6 a database for storing program reservation data identifying a
7 reservation of particular externally broadcast programs for
8 recording,
9 means for preparing a program condition data based, at least
10 in part, on said reservation data,
11 means for receiving and storing a privacy level data having at
12 least a first value and a second value,
13 means transmitting the stored privacy level data through said
14 communication network, and
15 means for transmitting, based at least in part on said privacy
16 level data, said program condition data through said network,
17 wherein said transmitting selectively transmits said condition data
18 when said privacy level data has said first value and is inhibited
19 from transmitting said condition data when said privacy level data
20 has said second value;
21 an electronic program guide preparation server, connected to said
22 communication network, for preparing an electronic program guide,

23 wherein said electronic program guide preparation server includes
24 reception means for receiving said privacy level data and said condition
25 data through said communication network, means for preparing an
26 electronic program guide including a display form showing a reservation
27 status of the externally broadcast programs based on said received
28 condition data, and transmission means for transmitting the prepared
29 electronic program guide to said program processing apparatus,
30 wherein said program processing apparatus further includes
31 means for displaying the electronic program guide received through
32 said communication network,
33 means for recording said externally broadcast programs, ~~and~~
34 a recorded program database for storing information identifying
35 externally broadcast programs that have been recorded by said means for
36 recording said externally broadcast programs,
37 a program playback section for retrieving and playing externally
38 broadcast programs stored in said recorded program database;
39 inputting means for receiving user commands relating to the
40 electronic program guide displayed by said means for displaying the
41 electronic program guide received from said electronic program guide
42 preparation server, wherein said receiving includes receiving user
43 commands identifying an acquisition period associated with said electronic
44 program guide; and
45 an operating instruction section for controlling said program
46 playback section based on said electronic program guide displayed by said
47 means for displaying and on said user commands,
48 wherein said preparing performed by said means for preparing a
49 program condition data includes preparing the program condition data
50 further based on said information stored in said recorded program

51 database identifying externally broadcast programs that have been
52 recorded, and
53 wherein said preparing performed by said means for preparing an
54 electronic program guide further includes:
55 identifying a present date and time from an external clock;
56 determining, based on the identified present date and time and the
57 user-input acquisition period received at said inputting means, a time
58 relation of the identified present time and the user-input acquisition
59 period as being one of the identified present date and time being within the
60 user-input acquisition period, the user-input acquisition period being
61 earlier than the identified present date and time, and the identified user-
62 input acquisition period being later than the identified present date and
63 time,
64 determining, in response to determining the identified present date
65 and time being within the user-input acquisition period, whether or not a
66 program within the user-input acquisition period is being currently
67 recorded,
68 confirming, in response to determining the user-input acquisition
69 period as earlier than the identified present time, stored information in the
70 recorded program database relating to recorded programs within the user-
71 input acquisition period, and
72 confirming, in response to determining the user-input acquisition
73 period as later than the identified present time, stored information in the
74 database for storing program reservation data relating to programs within
75 the user-input acquisition period.

3-15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) The program processing system of claim 2 ~~14~~,
2 wherein a monetary consideration which, differs depending upon said
3 privacy level data sent from said program processing apparatus, is
4 imposed for said electronic program guide preparation server sending said
5 electronic guide to said program processing apparatus.

1 17. (New) The program processing system of claim 2, wherein said
2 preparing performed by said means for preparing an electronic program
3 includes, in response to said determining whether or not a program within
4 the user-input acquisition period is being currently recorded determining
5 the identified present date and time being within the user-input
6 acquisition period, identifying for at least one program within the user-
7 input acquisition period whether not the program is being recorded, and
8 displaying a corresponding information on said means for displaying the
9 electronic program guide.

1 18. (New) The program processing system of claim 17, wherein said
2 displaying a corresponding information includes displaying, in response to
3 identifying the program being recorded, a request for a user input
4 command regarding the recording.

1 19. (New) The program processing system of claim 17, wherein said
2 displaying a corresponding information includes displaying, in response to
3 identifying the program being not recorded, a request for a user input
4 command to record the program.

1 20. (New) The program processing system of claim 19, wherein said means
2 for recording said externally broadcast programs detects, in response to
3 receiving the user input command to record the program, whether another

4 program is being recorded and, in response detecting another program
5 being recorded, displays on said means for displaying the electronic
6 program guide a request for a user input command for selecting a program.

1 21. (New) The program processing system of claim 2, wherein said
2 confirming performed in response to determining the user-input
3 acquisition period as earlier than the identified present time of a stored
4 information in the recorded program database includes acquiring, from the
5 recorded program database, a present situation information regarding a
6 recorded status and a broadcast time of at least one program within the
7 user-input acquisition period.

1 22. (New) The program processing system of claim 2, wherein said
2 confirming performed in response to determining the user-input
3 acquisition period as later than the identified present time of a stored
4 information in the recorded program database includes acquiring, from the
5 database for storing program reservation data, a present situation
6 information regarding a reservation status of at least one program within
7 the user-input acquisition period.

1 23. (New) The program processing system of claim 2, wherein preparing
2 performed by said means for preparing an electronic program guide
3 includes receiving user preferences regarding a format for displaying
4 present situations of channels within said user-input acquisition period,
5 and preparing said electronic program guide for particularly display of the
6 electronic program guide, on said means for displaying the electronic
7 program guide, in accordance with said user preferences.

1 24. (New) The program processing system of claim 2, wherein said
2 preparing performed by said means for preparing an electronic program
3 guide includes preparing the electronic format guide to display different
4 user command options based on determining the identified present date
5 and time being within the user-input acquisition period, the user-input
6 acquisition period being earlier than the identified present date and time,
7 and the identified user-input acquisition period being later than the
8 identified present date and time.